

***MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
JULY 30, 2003***

Members Present: Matthew Smith, Chairman; Per Bang-Jensen, Vice-Chairman; J. David Cubbage; Sharon Grove McCamy; Sam Poles and Liz Cook.

Members Absent: Laurence Mason; Ann McCarty and Gary Nelson

Guests Present: George Fetterer; James Romano and Joseph Romano

Staff Present: Fran Williams

1. Approval of June 25, 2003 Committee Meeting Minutes.

On motion made by Sam Poles and seconded by Per Bang-Jensen it was moved to approve the June 25, 2003 Committee meeting minutes. The motion carried with one abstention, Ms. McCamy, who was not present at the June 25, 2003 meeting.

2. Consider a Petition to Lower the Speed Limit on Belvoir Road (Route 709) Between Routes 17 and 55 – George M. Fetterer.

Garrett Moore stated that a recommendation has been made to have the speed limit on Belvoir Road (Route 709) lowered to 35 mph from the railroad tracks to Route 55. Once approval is received from the Commonwealth Transportation Board speed limit signs will be posted. George Fetterer expressed appreciation to the Committee for its help in getting this done.

3. Consider Waiving Engineering Requirements for a Portion of Stribling Drive – Joseph Romano. (Added to Agenda)

Sharon McCamy stated that Mr. Romano has requested a waiver of the Engineering requirements on the portion of Stribling Drive which needs to be repaved. Liz Cook stated that she spoke with Dave Cubbage earlier about the condition of Stribling Drive and that if the road meets VDOT standards there may not be any Engineering requirements to waive. If a waiver is necessary, the request would have to go through the normal application process when the Preliminary Plat is submitted. Ms. Cook stated that it will still be necessary to meet all SWM/BMP and landscaping requirements.

Dave Cubbage stated that he has walked Stribling Drive with Joseph and James Romano. Mr. Cubbage stated that the grading and alignment of the road appears satisfactory and he did not notice any failing sections. The portion from Route 17 to the cul-de-sac does need to be overlaid. There are also right-of-way and dedication issues that will need to be resolved.

The Committee indicated that it supports the waiver of Engineering requirements for Stribling Drive.

4. Consider Truck Speed and Noise Concerns on Route 17 North of Warrenton – Kevin Carter, Airlie Center. (Item #3)

Kevin Carter was not present at the meeting. Garrett Moore stated that Sheriff Higgs has agreed to initiate selected enforcement (radar and vehicle checks) as requested. This will be done in addition to the current police assignments at specific locations along that corridor.

Dave Cubbage stated that he has visited Route 628 near Ben & Mary's Restaurant as well as the portion near Airlie with Kevin Carter to consider some of the concerns that have been raised. Mr. Cubbage further stated that Airlie owns land that would be needed for right-of-way dedication in order to modify the intersection at Route 628 and Route 17.

5. Traffic Calming for Emerald Oaks through the VDOT Traffic Calming Program. (Item #4)

Liz Cook stated that one of the requests previously made for Emerald Oaks was a three-way stop sign. However, this portion of the request was denied because the County was not participating in VDOT's Traffic Calming Program. Since then the Board of Supervisors has adopted a Resolution requesting that we be able to use the Traffic Calming Program, which is a multiple step process that includes having a community meeting on-site, a public meeting, gathering documentation including petitions from 75% of the affected parties, etc. Liz Cook stated that Community Development does not currently have the resources to start this process.

Garrett Moore stated that the key is to get the petition and a strong consensus of the majority of the affected parties before preparing the Resolution. Mr. Moore stated that VDOT will obtain the average daily traffic volumes and the residents can take care of getting the petition.

Liz Cook will get with Dave Cubbage and Garrett Moore to determine the exact area involved and residents who will need to be notified.

6. Consider Recommending Abandonment of Walnut and Elm Streets in Upperville – R. D. Sisk. (Item #5)

R. D. Sisk was not present at the meeting. Liz Cook stated that Walnut and Elm Streets, which are located in Upperville, are totally vegetated and not useable. The gentleman who owns most of this property would like to boundary adjust some of the lots to have buildable lots, but doing so will require drainfield areas to be located in the streets.

Sam Poles asked if a petition has been circulated to determine if everyone on these streets would be agreeable to having them abandoned. Liz Cook stated that no petition has been submitted.

Per Bang-Jensen stated that having a petition may be necessary since others may be impacted. Sam Poles expressed concern that Fire and Rescue may, at some point, need access to this area in case of a large brush fire, etc.

Liz Cook will contact Mr. Sisk and have him start the petition.

7. Consider Reducing the Speed Limit Along Ritchie Road (Route 644) from Route 17 to Rogues Road (Route 602) – Supervisor Ray Graham. (Item #6)

Liz Cook stated that Supervisor Ray Graham is requesting that the Transportation Committee take the necessary steps to reduce the speed limit on Route 644 (Ritchie Road) to 40 mph or less for that section between Route 17 (Marsh Run Road) and Route 602 (Rogues Road). This is necessary due to the many

curves on that part of Route 744, coupled with the volume of traffic near the Flying Circus and a number of other businesses in that area.

Garrett Moore stated that it would be his suggestion to reduce the speed limit to 45 mph on the entire road. ***Mr. Moore will initiate a traffic study.***

8. ***Other Items. (Item #7)***

Sharon McCamy stated that she was contacted by a citizen who lives on Courtney's Corner Road (Route 637) about an accident which occurred when a moving van parked along the road, blocking the line of sight. The citizen has requested that VDOT reconsider the speed limit on Route 637 to the intersection with Route 651. ***Garrett Moore will check on this matter.***

Sharon McCamy asked for an update of the closure of crossovers along Route 29. Garrett Moore stated that VDOT is currently working on this issue, taking pictures, etc. and will make a presentation to the Committee within the next few months.

Liz Cook stated that the speed limit has been reduced on Route 29 from the Comfort Inn to Route 605, but it is hard to see the signs. ***Garrett Moore will check on this matter.***

Sharon McCamy asked about the status of the stop light at Village Center Drive and Route 17. Ms. McCamy stated that there is usually a backup of 3 – 4 cars waiting to get out of the shopping center, which is an accident waiting to happen. Dave Cubbage stated that construction will begin soon with the installation of a flashing beacon, but this will be a gradual transition.

Sam Poles asked about the status of Carter's Run Bridge as well as a bridge near Supervisor Harry Atherton's residence. Garrett Moore stated that work on the Carter's Run Bridge is scheduled to begin on August 11th, but he does not have any additional information about the other bridge. ***Garrett Moore will contact Mr. Atherton.***

Per Bang-Jensen stated that one of his constituents has inquired about the status of the Weigh Station. Garrett Moore stated that the Weigh Station is used infrequently because of concerns about accidents. Dave Cubbage stated that a total safety check will be conducted in the near future. ***Garrett Moore will contact the Department of Motor Vehicles to inquire about the hours of use.***

Per Bang-Jensen stated that Jon Whichard, a resident of the Poplar Grove subdivision, has inquired if signs can be located on County or Government-owned property (i.e., Lord Fairfax Community College) since VDOT will not allow them to be erected in their rights-of-way. Mr. Bang-Jensen stated that the issue of strict enforcement may need to be brought up to the Public Safety Committee. ***Liz Cook will check the Sign Ordinance.***

Per Bang-Jensen also stated that Mr. Whichard has asked about having the speed limit reduced on the Eastern By-Pass. Garrett Moore stated that the local VDOT office does not recommend a reduction of speed since this is a four-lane highway, which was designed to be traveled at 55 mph.

Liz Cook stated that she has received a letter from Samuel B. Gunter who has expressed concern about truck traffic on Atoka Road. Mr. Gunter's letter states that truck traffic on Atoka Road has increased significantly causing rapid deterioration. Mr. Gunter has requested a restriction on truck traffic and/or upgrading the roadway. ***Garrett Moore stated that he will check on this matter and may be able to get this road patched.***

Liz Cook stated that she has received an e-mail from VDOT regarding the Six-Year Plan. Dave Cabbage stated that they have made some adjustments to some of the recommendations and that VDOT's goal is to have a recommendation from both Fauquier and Rappahannock's Board of Supervisors by December.

Liz Cook stated that she received a call from a gentleman who informed her that the one commuter bus that leaves the commuter parking lot at the intersection of Route 29 and 605 has discontinued service.

Matthew Smith stated that no Committee meeting will be held in the month of August. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 24, 2003.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.